21st August 1925]

Scavenging work in the Salem jail.

* 303 Q.—Mr. R. VEERIAN: With reference to my question No. 1237 answered at the meeting of the 18th November 1924, will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have already made inquiries as regards the members of the depressed classes who do not belong to the scavenging or toti class doing the work of scavenging in the Salem jail; and

(*b*) if so, whether they will be pleased to lay a copy of the report received from the Superintendent, Salem jail, on the table of this Council?

A.—(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) The Inspector-General of Prisons reports that convicts belonging to the Pariah and Korava castes are employed on scavenging in the Central Jail, Salem. Members of these castes are employed on this work under municipal councils, local boards, etc., and the Government do not see any reason why exception should be taken to their being called upon to do similar work in jails.

Mr. R. VEERIAN:—"May I know whether the Adi-Dravida prisoners who are asked to do scavenging work in the Salem jail were also doing that class of work before they were convicted?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur:—"That is our information."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR:—"Is it not a fact that members of the Adi-Dravida community in the Salem jail were asked to do this kind of work irrespective of the fact whether they were doing that work before or not."

The hon. Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur:—"I am not aware that it was so. However, I shall look into the matter."

Mr. R. VEERIAN:—"May I know the reason for putting the objectionable word 'Pariah' here while that word has been expunged from all Government records?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur:—"I am very sorry that it has been inserted by mistake. I shall see that it is removed"

Labour.

Recruitment of labour under the Assam Labour Act.

* 304 Q.—Mr. G. RAMESWARA RAO: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) the number of labourers recruited under the Assam Labour Act in the year ending with March 1925 from each of the four Ceded districts;

(*b*) the numbers that were returned as Sirdars or recruiting agents or other agents of the planters to these districts in the period;

(*c*) the number that returned from the tea gardens of their own accord and the number that were rejected by the planters, if any, during the said period;

(*d*) the total number of Ceded districts coolies that have stayed in the tea gardens as labourers on 1st April 1925, and how many of them are males and how many females; and

(*e*) whether any separate lodgings are provided on the estates for females or whether they are mixed up with males?

A.—(*a*) Government have no information for the year ending March 1925. The number of labourers (including dependents) recruited from the Ceded districts during the year ending 30th June 1924 was as follows:—

Anantapur	1,369
Bellary	2,146
Cuddapah	922
Kurnool	145

(*b*) The numbers that were returned as Sirdars were as follows:—

Anantapur	475
Bellary	604
Cuddapah	247
Kurnool	50

(*c*) & (*d*) The Government have no information.

(*e*) Women are allowed to live with their own men folk. Unattached women do not usually go to work on estates.

The working of the Planters' Labour Act I of 1903.

* 305 Q.—Mr. J. A. SALDANHA: Will the hon. the Home Member and the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) the number of persons convicted under the Planters' Labour Act I of 1903 in 1924 as compared with that in 1923 and 1922;

(*b*) now that the Workmen's Breach of Contract Act (XII of 1920) has been repealed,

(i) whether the Local Government propose to repeal the penal and the other provisions of the Planters' Labour Act in regard to workmen's breaches of contract;

(ii) if so, when they will bring the necessary legislation, and

(iii) if not, on what grounds are the present provisions in the Planters' Labour Act as to workmen's breach of contract to be retained;

(*c*) what rules Government have published or propose to publish as to the provision for the lodging of labourers and comforts and amenities of life under the Planters' Labour Act; and

(*d*) what reports Government have called for and received from local authorities in these respects for the years 1923-24 and 1924-25?

A.—(*a*) The attention of the hon. Member is invited to the annual reports on the working of the Planters' Labour Act for the years 1922, 1923 and 1924 recorded in G.Os. No. 786, Law (General), dated the 7th March 1923, No. 793, Law (General), dated the 8th March 1924, and No. 934, Law (General), dated the 18th March 1925 which were placed on Editors' Table.

(*b*) (i), (ii) & (iii) The Government do not propose to take any action at present towards the repeal of the provisions of the Act.

(*c*) No rules have been published by the Government, and there is no proposal at present to frame any rules.